

Why 200 Bowdoin Street?

Family Nurturing Center's building, 200 Bowdoin Street, is centrally located in the heart of the Bowdoin-Geneva neighborhood of Dorchester. Built as a bank in 1953, the building is visibly cited on a corner with a large parking lot.

Bowdoin Street Health Center owned the building for almost 30 years before building a much larger, more efficient space a few blocks away. Family Nurturing Center moved into the building in 1997, leasing it from the Health Center. In 2011, the Health Center decided to sell the property and presented FNC with the opportunity to purchase.

First, Family Nurturing Center reaffirmed its commitment to being located in the Bowdoin-Geneva neighborhood. FNC's deep roots and strong connections with community-based partners, along with the obvious opportunity to meet needs in the neighborhood, made the decision easy.

Second, FNC's board and staff conducted an exhaustive review of other options in the neighborhood, which led to the decision to purchase the building in 2013.

- 1. Purchasing made smart financial sense. The Health Center offered the building to FNC at an excellent purchase price; there was no other office space available for rent or purchase at a competitive price in the area at that time. After the purchase, FNC's annual occupancy costs decreased by two-thirds.
- 2. The property has 18 parking spaces. For staff that travel all over Boston, come and go at all hours, and use FNC's office as a home base, easy and safe parking is essential.
- **3.** Architectural and structural engineering assessments demonstrated that the building is solid enough to easily add floors without structural reinforcement.
- **4.** Considering expansion, FNC went through a zoning review and other permitting assessments that showed no obstacles to growth.
- **5.** Our architect and cost estimators determined that renovating the building is more cost-effective than demolishing and building new.